



# FACT SHEET



## RECRUITING QUALITY EMPLOYERS IN EASTERN IDAHO

### Office of Worker & Community Transition

#### Background and Challenges

The Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) is changing with the times. In 1997, the INEEL's mission shifted from nuclear technology research to focus on addressing environmental concerns resulting from production priorities during the Cold War. In 1994, management of the INEEL was consolidated from five management and operating contracts into a single prime contract with Lockheed Martin Idaho Technologies Companies. This consolidation resulted in increased operating efficiency and economies of scale. However, through the end of FY 1998, INEEL experienced a 28 percent reduction in its work force after reaching its peak in 1991 with 7,988 prime contractor employees.

#### The Path to Progress

The Eastern Idaho Economic Development Council (EIEDC) conducts all Community Reuse Organization (CRO) activities in Idaho through its non-profit status. The mission of the EIEDC is to diversify the regional economy by creating the widest possible range of employment opportunities for the region's residents, while preserving and enhancing their quality of life.



The Center Partners, Inc. Facility

The EIEDC's vision of attracting high-leverage investments to permanently enhance the local economy has created quality employment opportunities with support from the Department of Energy. Community assistance funding totaled \$20.3 million as of September 30, 1998, with \$5.3 million committed to the CRO and \$15 million to the State of Idaho for economic diversification. These funds have resulted in the creation of 1,808 jobs, with an additional 1,300 new jobs projected by the year 2001.

#### Community Success Stories

Center Partners, Inc. and U.S. West are just two of the private companies that EIEDC and the community have recruited to the area. Together, these will potentially create 700 new jobs, a new annual payroll of more than \$25 million, and a total leveraged investment of \$8.8 million. This recruitment of private investment is just one of the many examples highlighted below that is moving EIEDC closer to its goal of diversifying the regional economy.



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## ***Community Assistance Funds Provide Space for Two New Companies***

- EIEDC provided financing for the construction of a 25,000 square foot building to recruit new companies to the area and create additional job opportunities for the residents of the Idaho Falls area. Center Partners, Inc. will use the space to open a technical support center with initially 55 new positions and will also provide customized training to approximately 370 product technicians and managers over the one and a half years with funds provided by the State of Idaho Work force Development Training Fund.
- U.S. West required a second 25,000 square foot building for occupancy. The building's developer, G.L. Voigt, has since made plans to build an additional 50,000 square feet.
- EIEDC's Chairman C. Timothy Hopkins pleased with the recruitment, explains, "This effort simply validates the Council's judgment regarding the need for high quality space as part of its diversification efforts. A targeted recruiting program, a quality labor force, and available facilities is a winning formula."

## ***Community Assistance Funds Support Speech Pathology for Children***

- Language Vision is an INEEL spinoff that develops new software combining voice recognition and graphics in fun-to-play games that help children across the country correct speech difficulties.
- EIEDC, together with Thermo Technology Ventures, provided financing to ensure that Language Vision could continue development of its software products and enable another innovative, cutting edge company to make important contributions to the Idaho Falls community.

## ***Community Assistance Funds Enable Technological Advancement***

- Lockwood Packaging Company manufactures bags for fresh pack potatoes, citrus and other produce.
- EIEDC assisted the Lockwood Packaging Company with financing for state-of-the-art equipment that automates bag manufacture with more than twice the efficiency of the old, manual process. This advanced equipment has helped to create new job opportunities and increased prosperity for the Idaho Falls area.

## ***Community Assistance Funds Produce New Business Opportunities***

- RIO Products is a leader in the design and manufacture of fly lines and was in need of financing to move ahead with its goal to produce the world's finest fly lines.
- EIEDC provided financing to RIO Products for its new headquarters and highly-specialized production equipment, while continuing to diversify the region with a wide range of employment opportunities.

### **Contact Information**

For more information on this project or the Office of Worker and Community Transition, please contact:

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